AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently amended) For a picture archiving and communication system (PACS), a method for partial preprocessing of raw image data at an image acquisition workstation connected to the PACS system, the method comprising:

receiving raw image data from an imaging modality;

storing predetermined preprocessing functions applicable to the raw image data,

wherein said predetermined preprocessing functions include at least one of a frequency preprocessing function and a contrast preprocessing function;

applying at least one and fewer than all of the preprocessing functions to the raw image data to form partially preprocessed raw image data,

wherein at least one of said preprocessing functions is applied to said partially preprocessed raw image data at a workstation; and

transmitting the partially preprocessed raw image data to a PACS network for storage in a preprocessing database,

wherein said PACS network includes a preprocessing database and an image database, said preprocessing database utilized for storing said partially preprocessed raw image data, said image database utilized for storing a fully processed image data,

wherein said fully preprocessed image data is created by applying all of said preprocessing functions to said raw image data to form fully preprocessed image data; and

storing said partially preprocessed raw image data in said preprocessing database.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying further comprises applying at least one frequency preprocessing function to the raw image data.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein the step of applying further comprises applying a frequency preprocessing function characterized by at least one of a RN, RE, and RT preprocessing parameter.

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[2]]1, wherein the step of applying further comprises applying the at least one contrast preprocessing function to the raw image data.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein the step of applying further comprises applying a contrast preprocessing function characterized by at least one of a GT, GA, GC, and GS preprocessing parameter.

7.   (Currently amended) An image acquisition workstation for a picture

archiving and communication system (PACS) and for partial preprocessing of raw image

data, the image acquisition workstation comprising:

a processing circuit;

an imaging modality interface for receiving raw image data; and

a software memory coupled to the processing circuit, the software memory storing

instructions for:

receiving the raw image data from an imaging modality;

applying at least one and fewer than all of predetermined preprocessing

functions to the raw image data to form partially preprocessed raw image data,

wherein said predetermined preprocessing functions include at least one of

a frequency preprocessing function and a contrast preprocessing function,

wherein at least one of said preprocessing functions is applied to said

partially preprocessed raw image data at a workstation; and

transmitting the partially preprocessed raw image data to a PACS network

for storage in a preprocessing database.

8.   (Original)   The image acquisition workstation of claim 7, wherein the

raw image data corresponds to an anatomical region, and wherein the at least one

preprocessing function applied to form the partially preprocessed raw image data is

selected based on the anatomical region

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently amended) The image acquisition workstation of claim [[9]]7,

wherein the applying instructions further comprise instructions for applying the at least

one frequency preprocessing function to the raw image data.

11.   (Original)   The image acquisition workstation of claim 10, wherein the

applying instructions further comprise instructions for applying a frequency

preprocessing function characterized by at least one of a RN, RE, and RT preprocessing

parameter.

12.   (Currently amended) The image acquisition workstation of claim [[9]]7,

wherein the applying instructions further comprise instructions for applying the at least

one contrast preprocessing function to the raw image data.

13.   (Original)   The image acquisition workstation of claim 12, wherein the

applying instructions further comprise instructions for applying a contrast preprocessing

function characterized by at least one of a GT, GA, GC, and GS preprocessing parameter.

14.   (Currently amended)   A medical data network comprising:

an imaging modality;

an image acquisition workstation;

a PACS network interfaced to the image acquisition workstation, the PACS network comprising a networked PACS image database, display workstation, and preprocessing database, and wherein the image acquisition workstation comprises:

a processing circuit;

an imaging modality interface coupled to the imaging modality for receiving raw image data; and

a software memory coupled to the processing circuit, the software memory storing instructions for:

receiving the raw image data from an imaging modality;

applying at least one and fewer than all of predetermined preprocessing functions to the raw image data to form partially preprocessed raw image data,

wherein said predetermined preprocessing functions include at least one of a frequency preprocessing function and a contrast preprocessing function,

wherein at least one of said preprocessing functions is applied to said partially preprocessed raw image data at a workstation; and

transmitting the partially preprocessed raw image data to a PACS network for storage in a preprocessing database.

15. (Original)   The medical data network of claim 14, wherein the raw image data corresponds to an anatomical region, and wherein the at least one preprocessing function applied to form the partially preprocessed raw image data is selected based on the anatomical region.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The medical data network of claim [[16]]14, wherein the applying instructions further comprise instructions for applying the at least one frequency preprocessing function to the raw image data.

18. (Original)   The medical data network of claim 17 wherein the applying instructions further comprise instructions for applying a frequency preprocessing function characterized by at least one of a RN, RE, and RT preprocessing parameter.

19. (Currently amended) The medical data network of claim [[16]]14, wherein the applying instructions further comprise instructions for applying the at least one contrast preprocessing function to the raw image data.